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CC 96-45  
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Administrative Information Technology  
Support Services  
1401 Presque Isle Avenue  
Marquette, MI 49855-5331  
906 227-2999  
FAX: 906 227-1890

**EX PARTE COMMUNICATION IN CC DOCKET NO. 96-262**

May 1, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Northern Michigan University is very concerned with potential cost increases associated with proposals the FCC is considering for funding Universal Service. We recommend that colleges and universities be exempt from the increase in multi-line Subscriber Line Charges that are designated to be used for Universal Service. In many cities, our included, it is the higher ed institutions that provide the infrastructure and facilities by which K-12 schools and public libraries connect to the Internet or provide distance learning.

Sincerely,

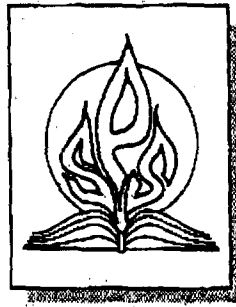
Felecia Flack  
Director of Support Services

FF:mg

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John W. English Administrative Center  
 24661 Lahser Road  
 Southfield, Michigan 48034  
 PHONE: (810) 746-8500  
 FAX: (810) 746-8540

## SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CC 96-45

Wednesday 30 April 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Reed Hundt, Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
 Washington DC 20554  
 Fax: 202-418-2801

RECEIVED  
 MAY 2 1997  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Thank you for your commitment to support an educational rate which will provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications.

The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students in our nation's schools. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

If our students are truly to be competitive, it will take the efforts of government, businesses, and education working together to provide the best educational environment possible. Telecommunications is the wave of the future and must be supported by all who serve education.

In closing, I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in the nation.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Marlene E. Davis, Ph.D.  
 Superintendent

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INDEPENDENT  
TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ALLIANCE

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MAY 2 1997

May 1, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal State Joint Board Recommended Decision on  
Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA), which has participated in this proceeding on behalf of its fifteen member companies many of whom serve rural markets and customers, strongly supports the recommendations made by Pacific Telecom, Inc.,<sup>1</sup> United States Telephone Association (USTA)<sup>2</sup> and the state Joint Board members<sup>3</sup> to establish a task force to address issues of particular significance to rural telephone service. The ITTA believes that such a task force is necessary if the Joint Board and the Commission are to implement properly Congress' goals for universal service in rural areas as set forth in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Recommended Decision addressed many issues of vital concern to rural telephone providers. Establishing a rural task force would ensure that the Joint Board and the Commission would have the benefit of direct input from these providers as it works to resolve these complex issues. Such a task force would also help ensure that the legitimate concerns of rural consumers and providers would be given appropriate weight in the Joint Board's and the Commission's deliberations.

Sincerely,

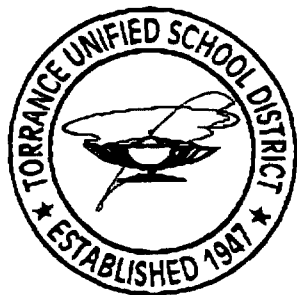
David Zesiger  
Executive Director

Cc: Commissioners Quello, Ness, and Chong

<sup>1</sup> See Comments of Pacific Telecom, Inc. (PTI) in Response to Questions Relating to Proxy Cost Models (filed January 7, 1997) and Comments of PTI Relating to Staff Workshops on Proxy Cost Models (filed January 24, 1997) in Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45.

<sup>2</sup> USTA ex parte, February 18, 1997.

<sup>3</sup> State members' Report on the Use of Cost Proxy Models, ) in Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed March 26, 1997) at 4.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HEIDI A. ASHCRAFT  
DR. WILLIAM R. BLISCHKE  
JOHN L. EUBANKS  
GARY S. KUWAHARA  
BETH WILSON

## TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2335 PLAZA DEL AMO  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509

SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS  
DR. ARNOLD C. BLANK

TELEPHONE (310) 533-4200  
**LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*"The Pride of the North"*

2418 West 166th Street  
Torrance, CA 90504  
(310) 533-4464

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington DC 90554

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20541

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Hundt:

I am an elementary principal with the Torrance Unified School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our school, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Teachers in the Torrance Unified School District are extremely interested in accessing the Internet from their classrooms to enhance instruction. Furthermore, we believe that connecting each classroom to the Internet will afford our students the best opportunity to be prepared for the challenges to citizens - the 21st century.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tamara Smith  
Principal

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TS:bg



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

**Edward T. Schafer**  
Governor of North Dakota  
Chairman

**Tony Knowles**  
Governor of Alaska  
Vice Chairman

**James M. Souby**  
Executive Director

**Headquarters:**

600 17th Street  
Suite 1705 South Tower  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5452

(303) 623-9378  
Fax (303) 534-7309

**Washington, D.C. Office:**

400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 388  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 624-5402  
Fax (202) 624-7707

[www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

April 29, 1997

Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Re: Universal Service Rules; Healthcare providers and section  
254(h)(1)(A) of the 1996 Act

As you know, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) has actively participated in the FCC's process to implement the healthcare provisions in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. We write once more to urge you to do all you can to make telemedicine and other healthcare uses of the telecommunications network as cost-effective and as workable as possible.

Specifically, with your rules due to be published shortly, the WGA again asks you to eliminate the user costs associated with mileage-based charges. In the West and in many other parts of the country, where traditional charges penalize those who live and work far outside urban areas, telemedicine providers continue to struggle to pay charges with high mileage components. This is precisely the reason Congress called for comparability between urban and rural areas in the 1996 Act. In order to obviate the effects of distance, rural charges for certain health care providers should be "reasonably comparable" to charges for similar services in urban areas. Without this comparability, the benefits promised in this part of the Act will never be realized.

Related to the mileage charge issue, I understand the Commission continues to debate the wisdom of its order directing toll-free Internet access for health care providers who lack local Internet service. You should clearly apply the comparability standard here as well. At this point Internet service is the standard vehicle for a great deal of public service communications, including healthcare. Full use of this application will be delayed in rural areas unless it is reasonably priced. Please take the opportunity to make Internet access affordable for rural health care providers.

Thank you again for considering the needs of the West in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

*Ed Schafer*

Edward T. Schafer  
WGA Chairman  
Governor of North Dakota

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VIA FAX

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MAY 2 1997



**Greater Columbia  
Community  
Relations  
Council**

930 Richland Street  
P.O. Box 1360  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 733-1130  
Fax (803) 733-1135

James Brown  
Chair

Jesse Washington, Jr.  
Executive Director

Charles Austin  
M. Malissa Burnette  
Edith Burwell  
Helene Cargile  
Durham Carter  
John Clark  
Michael Crapps  
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James Hardy, Jr.  
James Jackson  
Ozie Jackson  
Rhett Jackson  
Theodore Kennedy  
Marvin Lare  
Marilyn Lewis  
Margaret McFaddin  
Edna Primus  
Stacy Shuler  
Martha Scott Smith  
Sue Sweeney  
Sam Tenenbaum  
Latta Thomas  
Diane Thompson  
Bud Tibshirany  
Warner Wells  
Preston Winkler  
Susan Wrigley  
Demmie Willingham

Advisors:  
Charles Batson  
Hyman Rubin  
Jasper Salmond

Sponsored By:  
City of Columbia  
Richland County Council  
Greater Columbia  
Chamber of Commerce

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April 24, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt,

The Greater Columbia Community Relations Council (CRC) is proud to support the National Campaign for Affordable Telecommunications. CRC is a nonprofit organization with the philosophy and purpose of enhancing the quality of life in Columbia through various avenues which include employment, housing and education. We are in frequent contact with citizens who fall in the categories of low to moderate income. Therefore, we fully understand the need that people have of affordable telecommunications in order to achieve the kind of life that we all deserve.

Traditional telephone service has always been understood to be an essential lifeline to the world for all people regardless of income, race, disability, age ethnicity and geographic location. We are entering an era in which telecommunications technology is increasingly a prerequisite to education, employment, training, civic participation and other ways citizens contribute to society. America cannot be divided into a society of have and have nots.

A positive FCC decision could prevent communities at risk of losing the reasonable and dependable phone service needed and deserved by those less fortunate in order to aim at increasing their quality of life. We hope that you will support the National Campaign for Affordable Telecommunications to continue the reality of economical phone service.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (803) 733-1130.

Sincerely,

Jesse Washington  
Executive Director

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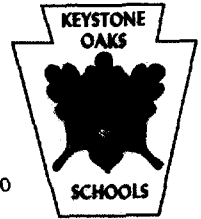
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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
(Washington, D.C.)

0

## KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1000 KELTON AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15216-2487 • 412/571-6000

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45**

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Board's recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunication services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the effort to prepare students for their future in which sixty percent of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our effort to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our work force will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy. The Keystone Oaks School District possesses a significant infrastructure for all students to use technology in the learning process. Our major cost will be line access charges.

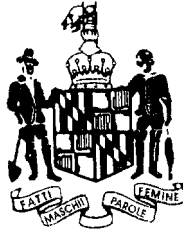
I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunication services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our work force of the future.

Sincerely,

Chet C. Kent, Ph.D., J.D.  
Superintendent

jf

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission

**MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 35A  
HARFORD COUNTY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
SPECIAL JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON INVESTIGATION

VICE CHAIRMAN  
HARFORD COUNTY DELEGATION

**JAMES M. HARKINS**

April 29, 1997

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**ANNAPOLIS OFFICE**

ROOM 326  
LOWE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(410) 841-3289  
1-800-492-7122

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

4 EAST JARRETTSVILLE ROAD  
P.O. BOX 149  
FOREST HILL, MARYLAND 21050-0149  
(410) 838-6636

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

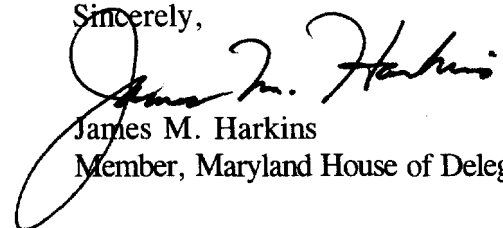
Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing, along with many other concerned persons, about the education of our children to urge you and your fellow commissioners to accept as offered the recommendations made by the Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service when they come before you for a vote on May 8, 1997. I join with the many educators and concerned parents of our state in acknowledging the importance of providing internet access and other telecommunication services to our public schools. These services must be offered at the most reasonable rates possible in order for our public school systems to have a genuine hope of being able to utilize them. It is highly important that these telecommunications services be made affordable to our students. Access to this information will provide students with the technology that will make them competitive in the job market in the future.

I ask that you make my letter part of the record on this pending matter. I ask that you vote to accept the recommendations of the Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service.

I appreciate your kind consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Harkins  
Member, Maryland House of Delegates

JMH/jde

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CC96-45

URBANA HIGH SCHOOL  
3471 CAMPUS DRIVE  
HJAMSVILLE, MARYLAND 21754  
301-874-6191  
FAX: 301-874-6189

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April 24, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20541

Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are the Technology Committee from Urbana High School in Frederick County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The schools in our county have very limited access to the Internet usually through a single phone line. We will never be able to afford more access for all schools unless discounts are provided. School funding is stagnant, while our technology needs are growing.

We are fortunate at our school to have access to a 56kb line. This is a great improvement over one line, however it is slow with the number of users we have. We have over 400 computers in our school which we would like to connect to the Internet. Without the discounts we will never be able to reach our goal. Our teachers and students realize the value of the Internet and are anxious to use it for projects. It opens up many new avenues of information that were not traditionally available to students.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Urbana High School Technology Committee

*Sandra L. Foggett*

*Deborah G. High*

*George E. Chason*  
*Brian R.*

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## YORK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

1005 WEST MAIN  
THOMSON, IL 61285

Telephone 815-259-2489  
Fax 815-259-2480

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Honorable Reed Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools and ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone.

Sincerely

York Township Public Library Board Members

Virginia Petersen  
Lynn Bower  
Violetta Atherton  
Brian Donato  
Carolyn Bonnell

Mary A. Falls  
Deanna Kamen  
Donna Stan  
Joe Meek

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CC96-45

Southwest Junior High School

Sweetwater Union High School District  
2710 IRIS AVENUE  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 921543399  
(619) 691-5455

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April 28, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Reed Hunt, Chairman  
FCC

1919 M. St. NW, Rm 81K  
Washington, DC 20054

Dear Mr. Hunt

I am writing ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> Support, discounts  
on telecommunications services for  
schools and libraries, especially in  
my district. I come from & teach in  
a very low-income area & these child-  
ren need all of the help they can get.  
These students need to be informed &  
have access to all aspects of this type  
of service to even possibly compete in  
the mainstream. Please support  
the Joint Board's recommendations so  
that advanced technology is available  
to our students & all Americans.

Sincerely,

Gail Thompson  
Teacher - 23 years

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 2 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life long learner in America.

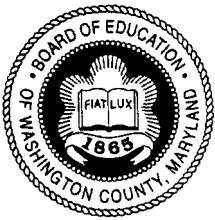
Sincerely,

*Mary Mandel*

3020 Maertelink Ave.  
Toledo, Oh. 43614

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B. MARIE BYERS  
President

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

P. O. BOX 730, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21741-0730 ■ PHONE: 301-766-2815

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997  
Federal Communication Commission

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the school board president from Washington County, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce for tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

B. Marie Byers, President  
Board of Education of Washington County

cas

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# MENIFEE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

30205 Meniffee Road, Meniffee, California 92584  
(909) 672-1851 • FAX (909) 672-1385

**Meniffee Pride**  
Working For You

April 22, 1997

**Superintendent**  
Glen C. Newman, Ed.D.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Meniffee Union School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert O'Donnell, Member  
Governing Board of Education

RO:na

cc: The Honorable Pete Wilson, Governor of the State of California

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**Shippensburg Area School District  
317 North Morris Street  
Shippensburg, PA 17257  
717-530-2700**

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the Assistant Business Administrator from the Shippensburg Area School District in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. One of my duties is working with our schools to advance technology for our students. I would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

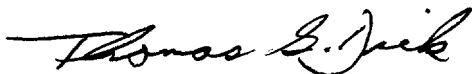
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will provide even the poorest school districts the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country. More importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom to enhance student learning. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to making learning accessible.

We plan to use the discounts available to provide internet connections in our classrooms and libraries. Teaching students how to use the new technology will be vital in preparing our students to enter the ever changing workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Dick  
317 North Morris Street  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

400 Central Park West - 5P  
New York, NY 10025  
April 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 844  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington DC 20554

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MAY 2 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

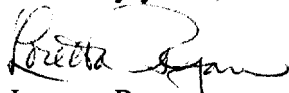
Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As a social studies teacher at the Calhoun School in Manhattan, I would like to thank you for your work with the Federal Communications Commission. I am concerned, however, that the Telecommunications Act may not continue to include the proposed education rate, which would provide affordable access to the Internet and the World Wide Web for all schools and libraries.

Today's technology can provide rich resources for students. Unfortunately, it can also serve to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." It is imperative that we, as educators and policy makers, do not further contribute to this bifurcation. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The discount will address the needs of all schools, and the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our students--those at Calhoun and at schools throughout New York City--need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the FCC to support fully the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,

  
Loretta Ryan

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**Immaculate Conception School**

109 W. Fourth Street  
Port Clinton, OH 43452  
(419) 734-3315

April 23, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

At Immaculate Conception School (ICS) we are committed to making available to our student population the opportunity to learn and work with computers. However, without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services are costly.

Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives to bring this technology into the classroom. Therefore, as recent studies indicate, we are behind the public schools in achieving this availability. ICS is working with what funds we do have to expand this technology into our curriculum. Whether attending public or parochial schools, every child deserves to have access to this vast world of information.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

*Sister M. Rita Kramer*

Sister Mary Rita Kramer, SND  
Principal

SMRK/tlm

cc: Catholic Youth and School Services

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To : The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
From: Carole Budilov  
Special Education Teacher  
Hatboro Horsham High School  
899 Horsham Road  
Horsham, PA 19044

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MAY 2 1997

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4/25/97

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

I am a teacher from Hatboro Horsham School District and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all the schools, and give services directly to the classrooms. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to all students and educators. It will help us get the students ready for the next millenium.

As a special education teacher I have already included resources for my classes. We have connected to the Internet and communicated with people in other countries that we have been studying. It is a great hands-on tool for all students to be exposed to while in a classroom setting.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your support.  
Sincerely,

*Carole Budilov*  
Carole Budilov

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MAY 2 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life long learner in America.

Sincerely,

*Amy Mercurio*  
879 Loch Haven  
Maumee, OH 43537

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## TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOX 112 - TAMAQUA, PA 18252  
Phone: (717) 668-2570 - FAX: (717) 668-6850

RAYMOND C. KINDER  
Superintendent

FREDERICK T. BAUSCH  
Assistant Superintendent

MARIE K. GURSKY  
Business Manager



April 28, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Assistant Superintendent for the Tamaqua Area School District and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

As we wrestle with the development of LAN's, WAN's and internet access, we are faced with several challenges. They include the logistics involved when integrating the use of current technology to enhance instruction as well as the financial constraints which are a fact of life for a school district. The implementation of the Telecommunications Act can assist us as we strive to provide the best resources while controlling costs.

Our students would benefit from deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

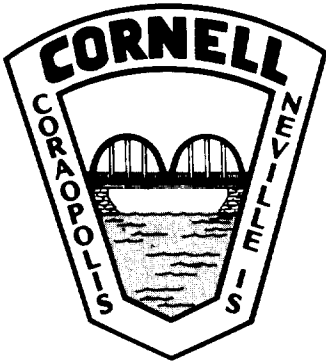
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frederick T. Bausch  
Assistant Superintendent

FTB/jmd

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# CORNELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1099 MAPLE STREET • CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108

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## ADMINISTRATION

Orlando A. Falcione, Superintendent  
Dennis J. Johnson, Principal

## OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Administrative ..... 412-264-5010  
Senior High School ..... 412-264-5012  
Junior High School ..... 412-264-5313  
Elementary School ..... 412-264-7503  
FAX ..... 412-264-1445

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 844  
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the Technology Coordinator for the Cornell School District and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Cornell School District is one of the smallest districts in Pennsylvania and is also among this area's poorest. By connecting every classroom to the wealth of information available via the Internet we can begin to level the playing field between the haves and the have-nots. This year we are embarking on an ambitious technology plan that will connect all of the classrooms in our schools to an internal network. By accessing reduced cost connections with the Information Superhighway, we can leverage the power of the computers to effectively enable our students to learn. Through an aggressive evening access program, we can offer the community at large an opportunity to access this information and improve their skills more effectively than through any other means. Cornell School District is taking the first steps towards a better-educated, more employable population. Reduced access to the Information Superhighway is a critical component to the success of our project.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Cordially,

Kenneth J Norris  
Technology Coordinator

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Dirk Van Dongen  
President

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April 23, 1997

MAY 2 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Chairman:

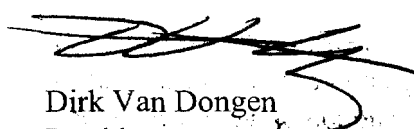
The National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors represents the interests of over 40,000 businesses that are located in almost every city and town across the country. The vast majority of our members are small business men and women, and telephone service is an integral part of each and every one of these businesses. Telephone service is vitally important to our members; so is the cost of this service.

As you move forward to implement rules and regulations under the 1996 Telecommunications Act, we urge that telephone rates not be increased for small business. It was our understanding when Congress passed this Act that it would lead to lower prices through increased competition. It is important that costs not be unfairly or inappropriately borne by a segment of our society that is most productive - small businesses, which generate 80% of new job growth in America.

We trust the Commission will not increase charges either directly or indirectly on anyone. The objective should be lower costs through increased competition.

Your consideration in this matter would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Dirk Van Dongen  
President

DVD:crw

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# THE LAMPHERE SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATION CENTER

31201 Dorchester  
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071-1099  
Telephone: (810) 589-1990  
FAX: (810) 589-2618



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**JAMES S. McCANN**  
Superintendent

**THOMAS M. TADAJEWSKI**  
Associate Superintendent for Business

**GEORGE JESKO**  
Deputy Superintendent

**T.C. ROEKE**  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

April 25, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a School Board Trustee from The Lamphere Schools and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Chard  
School Board Trustee

CAC:jo

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FRANKLIN AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
FRANKLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PONE LANE  
FRANKLIN, PA 16232

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997

21. April, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919M Street N.W. Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act—through its Universal Service Fund provisions—mandate the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions of adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Jean Snyder*  
*Franklin Area Education Association*  
*Vice President*

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CC96-45

CorVel

CorVel Corporation  
1300 SW 5th  
Suite 2500  
Portland, OR 97201

Phone 503 222 3144  
Fax 503 222 0225

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The cost of communications is a significant part of my company's business expenses. The Telecom Act of 1996 promised to help lessen this expense with lower prices and greater competition within the telecommunications industry. To date, my business has seen neither.

I understand that the FCC is being presented with proposals that would replace cuts in access charges with new end user fees. This plan would only mean higher phone bills for many businesses, including mine. To allow the local phone monopolies to make up revenue in new and increased fees on businesses or consumers is unacceptable.

There is no reason to raise rates or impose new fees on any business or consumer. In fact, business should see more competition and dramatic savings as unjustified access charge subsidies are squeezed out of the system.

Inflated access charges can and should be reduced by the FCC, but not at the expense of real local competition. I hope that the FCC will reject any proposal that would increase rates and instead adopt a plan for meaningful and timely access charges reform. Businesses like mine and consumers such as myself, not local phone monopolies, deserve the savings.

Sincerely,



Dennis York  
Manager, Information Systems  
CorVel Corporation

CC: Vice President Al Gore  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner James Quello  
Chairman John McCain  
Chairman Tom Bliley

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